#### APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

# TOWN OF DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 29, 2004

ATTENDANCE: Evonne Klein, First Selectwoman; Linda Santarella; Dr. Joseph Miceli;

Barbara Thorne; Robert F. Harrel, Jr.

STAFF: John Crary, Town Administrator

OTHER: Doug Webster; Russ Pidgeon; Dave Devers and Jim Cameron, Cable 9

Commission; John Nawrocki

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The First Selectwoman called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Klein reported receiving e-mails and letters with regard to the Grove Street commuter lot. She said that a couple of the complaints was that there was no forewarning but that it was covered in two prior Board of Selectmen meetings, however, it was not covered in the newspaper. She said that the goal is to achieve balance downtown between commuter parking and customer parking.

Ms. Klein reported that last week she attended a meeting with fellow First Selectmen and Mayors with regard to who will be affected by the Ferc decision. She said it essentially divides Connecticut into two zones regarding electrical rates; our zone serves New Haven and Southwestern Fairfield County. She said that the Town of Darien would be charged for more of the electricity than the rest of the state. Attorney General Blumenthal attended the meeting. Ms. Klein said that SWRPA would be taking an active role in the issue. She said that she would continue to keep the Board apprised of the situation.

Ms. Klein reported that the "Shop Darien Weekend" was held this past weekend. Surveys were sent to area merchants to find out how they did. She said that the feedback she got indicated that Friday was very busy and Saturday was less busy.

First Selectwoman Klein said that shellfish needed to be added to a future agenda. Ms. Klein referred the Commissioners a memo dated November 19, 2004 with regard to waiving requirements for competitive bidding. She said that she has approved the waiving of requirements for competitive bidding to replace the metal cable that operates the elevator at the Darien Railroad Station. The cost of repair is \$6,400.00. She said that the cable needed to be repaired very quickly.

Mr. Crary said that he and Bob Steeger met with Ray Cox and Harry Harris about 6 weeks ago with regard to several serious issues at the Darien train station dealing with renovations. He said that he

and Mr. Steeger wanted them to follow up on warranty requirements because there are design problems with the lighting. He said the light fixtures are filling up with water and breaking, there are shorts in the electrical system and the elevator has some serious problems. Mr. Crary said that they spoke with Mr. Cox's and Mr. Harris' replacements regarding these issues. He said that he wrote a letter addressed to them and has not received a response.

Mr. Harrel suggested that Mr. Crary write another letter with a carbon copy to the Attorney General stating the contracting issues and the way the project is being conducted. He said that the letter should ask that the bonding company be held responsible for the costs.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

First Selectwoman reported that there would be a Board of Finance meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 at 8:15 p.m. regarding the CL&P project as well as the Procaccini property. On Wednesday, December 1, 2004 there will be a meeting at the DCA at 7:30 p.m.: Under the Influence. On Thursday, December 2, 2004 there will be a public informational hearing in the auditorium at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, December 21, 2004 there will be a meeting held at the Senior Center. All those who are able are encouraged to attend.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Crary reported that for the last year and a half renovations have been ongoing on some of the offices in Town Hall. He said that based on staff time and finances they are averaging about one office per year. Mr. Crary said that earlier this year the Assessor's office was renovated and that the next office to be done is the Tax Collector's office. He said that the project would go out to bid later this month. The work will be done in February or March. Mr. Crary said that the next plan is to work on the Town Clerk's office. He said that it has been 20 years since the building has been converted from a school to Town Hall and it needs to be improved and modernized. Mr. Crary said that other areas being looked at are the Finance Department and combining the Planning and Zoning offices.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### a) Meet with the Housing Authority

Ms. Ashburne, Chairman of the Housing Authority Commission for the Town of Darien read the mission statement for the Commission. She said that the purpose of the Housing Authority for the Town of Darien is to provide decent, sanitary and safe housing for families, seniors and others in need. Currently there are 30 senior units and a current waiting list of 58 people. She said that the purpose of coming before the Board of Selectmen is to inform them that the Housing Commission is going to begin examining the breadth of the need, particularly for the senior population. She said that the Commission would greatly appreciate the Board's input.

Ms. Thorne asked if, in examining the need, the Housing Authority is looking at low, low-moderate, moderate or a mix. Ms. Ashburne said that they would like to examine a mix. She reported that meetings are held in the Community Room at the Senior Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month.

- b) Discuss and Take Action on request from Wilder Gleason for a municipal parking sign
- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA MADE A MOTION TO TABLE ITEM B UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.
- \*\* DR. MICELI SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- c) Discuss and Take Action on accepting a gift from the Darien Little League for McGuane Field

Ms. Klein referred to the packet received by Board members with regard to the resolution authorizing the acceptance of a gift for improvements to the McGuane Park. Discussion ensued with regard to amending the gift amount, extending RTM meetings to discuss charter revisions with regard to gift approval.

#### RESOLUTION:

- WHEREAS, pursuant to §2.3 of the Code of the Town of Darien, the Board of Selectmen is empowered on behalf of the Town to accept gifts in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) with the approval of the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien; and
- WHEREAS, Darien Little League has proposed to donate services to the Town to upgrade the fields at McGuane Park with an estimated value of \$25,000, and
- WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted on November 17, 2004 to accept the offer of the Little League of a gift of services to upgrade the fields at McGuane Park, now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the acceptance of this gift and directs that this resolution be forwarded to the Representative Town Meeting for its consideration and approval.
- \*\* DR. MICELI MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AMOUNT OF THE GIFT FROM \$25,000.00, NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000.00.
- \*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- \*\* DR. MICELI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED.
- \*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.

### \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

d) Discuss and Take Action on Proposed Guidelines from the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission for the erection or installation of monuments, plaques or memorials

The following changes were made:

- 1. Number 2, delete "...the members of..."
- 2. Number 4, delete "...by the members of..."
- \*\* DR. MICELI MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVE THE GUIDELINES FROM THE MONUMENTS AND CEREMONIES COMMISSION FOR THE ERECTION OR INSTALATION OF MONUMENTS, PLAOUES OR MEMORIALS AS AMENDED.
- \*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- e) Discuss and Take Action on Board of Selectmen Calendar of Meetings for 2005

Ms. Klein stated that she would like to have some of the meetings held at other locations, possibly some of the schools.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the 2005 Calendar of Meetings.

f) Discuss Cable 9 taping of Board of Selectmen Meetings for rebroadcast

Ms. Klein said that the taping is not only for Board of Selectmen meetings but for Board of Education, RTM and Board of Finance meetings as well. She said that this would provide the public with better information about what their officials are doing.

Mr. Dever, Cable Commission, gave an overview of Cablevision's 3 channels available to the public. He said that Cablevision has grants to install the equipment. He said that he would like to research volunteers to install the equipment for the Town of Darien.

Ms. Klein said that this item would be on future agendas. Ms. Klein asked Mr. Dever to provide additional information by next Thursday's meeting. Ms. Thorne said that she is excited about this project.

#### g) Discuss Charter Revision

Ms. Klein said that this is going to be a recurring item. She said that the Board needed to look at a noise ordinance. She said that the State gives the municipality the authority to set a noise ordinance but the Board says whatever the State says. There was discussion with regard to organizing a

Charter Revision Commission in January 2005. Ms. Klein suggested that the Board members look over the report they received and come back to the next meeting to talk about what they liked and did not like about it.

h) Discuss the Acquisition of the Procaccini Property

Ms. Klein said that there was a discussion at a Board meeting regarding the understanding that was reached with the family. A number of comments from the audience were made and changes were made. She said that she did not have them tonight but that they are on the Web. She said that the neighbors keep telling her that they support the purchase. The question is whether or not the Town is going to support this acquisition.

Mr. Harrel said that the Board needed to find out what the expense is to get the property in shape to do something with it and the total price of the transfer. Discussion ensued with regard to the acquisition of the property.

Ms. Klein asked Ms. Santarella what her take was on the information she received at a meeting with the neighbors. Ms. Santarella said that she received a lot of comments about water. She said that she got the sense that the neighbors do not want a skate park there. She said that she did not get the sense that they did not want the Town to purchase the property.

i) Budget Transfer for the replacement of the Police Department Roof

### RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

Account: Contingency – Amount \$65,000.00 to Account No. 30332324 Roof – Amount \$65,000.00.

- \*\* DR. MICELI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$65,000.00 FROM CONTINGENCY TO ACCOUNT NO. 30332324 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,000.00.
- \*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- j) Consider and Take Action on the following appointment:
  - Jennifer Robinson to the Board of Directors of SWRCC (Southwestern Regional Communication Center) commonly referred to as C-MED (Central Medical Emergency Dispatch) to fill the term of Cathy Coudert expiring in April 2005.
- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER ROBINSON TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SWRCC.

- \*\* DR. MICELI SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- k) Consider and Take Action on the following reappointments:
  - 1. Police Commission Doug Campbell ® for a term expiring on 6/30/07.
  - 2. Beautification Commission Sandy Filmer (D) for a term expiring on 11/30/07.
  - 3. Social Services Maura Carley (D) for a term expiring on 11/30/07.
- \*\* DR. MICELI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ALL 3 ITEMS.
- \*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MS. THORNE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Custis Telesco Secretarial Services